

**Tetbury Rural District
Council**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1940

Tetbury Rural District

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FOREWORD

I beg to present my Second Annual Report for the year 1940.

The birth rate was rather lower than in 1939, being 13.2, the standard death rate was 12.7, rather higher, and the infant death rate was only 24 per 1000 live births. Infectious diseases, with the exception of measles, were at a low ebb.

REGINALD GREEN, M.D., D.P.H.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	31,781
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	5,732
and estimated 1940	...	...	...	6,374
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)				1,664
(end of 1940)				1,801
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£27,068
Sum represented by a penny rate			...	£109

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	...	39	45	84
Legitimate	...	37	43	80
Illegitimate	...	2	2	4

Birth Rate (R.G.) 13.2

STILL BIRTHS	...	4	0	4
Legitimate	...	4	0	4
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

Rate per 1000 population, 0.62

DEATHS	42	44	86
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Death Rate (R.G.) 13.5 per 1000

Standard ... 12.7 ,,

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	...	Nil
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Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate, 2 , Illegitimate, Nil ; Total 2

Deaths per 1000 births :—24

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	7
„ Measles	„	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough	...	...	Nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil

BIRTHS.

In the Return of the Registrar General there were recorded 84 births, and of these 39 were males, and 45 females. The births actually registered in this area was 79, and this included 39 males and 40 females. The larger number, no doubt, included the births of residents that occurred outside the area. Only 4 illegitimate births occurred in the district, but in 1939 there were 2. In the fourth quarter there were 23 births recorded, whereas in the third the number was 17.

The birth rate worked out at 13.2 per 1000 population, but in 1939 the rate was 15.3, but the higher rate was possibly connected with the fact that for some months all the births in the district were included, whereas at the maternity hospital most of the infants born are from outside this area. These names naturally must be entered on the lists of their home districts.

In England and Wales the birth rate was 14.6 per 1000, varying from 16.0 in the great towns, and 13.7 in London.

There were 4 still births registered, all males and all legitimate, equal to 0.62 per 1000 population, while the rate in England and Wales was 0.55 per 1000.

In the County Maternal Hospital occurred 234 births, most of which were non-residents. The personnel of the mothers confined there extended from the wives of labourers to, in one case, the wife of an earl. There is no doubt that this hospital is a great acquisition to this part of the county, and means healthy motherhood to all concerned.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1940
(REG. GENERAL)

DISEASE				Males	Females.
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
Influenza	...	...	...	1	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	3
Cancer	...	...	...	5	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	1	4
Heart Disease	...	...	...	10	12
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	3
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	4	—
Nephritis	...	...	...	4	2
Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	—	1
Senility	...	...	...	4	8
Other Violence	...	...	...	1	2
Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	4	4
Suicide	...	...	...	—	—
All causes	...	...	...	42	44

DEATHS.

The deaths recorded in the district were 86, of which 42 were males, and 44 females, according to the Registrar General. The number locally returned was 85—one less. The crude death rate was 13.5 per

1000, compared with 12.5 in 1939. The standard death rate, which allows for a different age distribution in the area, when compared with the whole country, was 12.7 per 1000, whilst in England and Wales it was 14.6, being nearly 16 in the urban part of the country. As to deaths at age periods, there were two deaths at under one year, 3 at 1—5 years, 3 at 5—45 years, 24 at 45 to 65 years, and 53 at 65 years upwards. The distribution is fairly similar to that in 1939, with more deaths at ages over 45 years. On the Registrar's General's list was one death from cerebro-spinal fever, but no history of this fatal case is known, there being one resident case reported, and two from military camps. One death from diabetes was returned—a middle-aged woman. This disease was at one time very fatal, but, since insulin was discovered and used, there have been very few deaths. No epidemic occurred of influenza, only one death being recorded. Three deaths were caused by respiratory tubercloses, all women, the same number of deaths as in 1939. Cancer deaths were below the average, there being 7 as against 9, but males again were in the majority. Five deaths were due to cerebral haemorrhage, as to 8 in 1939. Diseases of the heart caused 22 deaths, as to 21 in 1939. Bronchitis was certified in 4 instances, there being 1 death in 1939. All the bronchial deaths were at ages over 65 years. Pneumonia, which is most fatal at the two ends of life, caused 6 deaths. The modern treatment of this disease has lowered the death rate to a considerable extent, but there were 2 deaths under the age of 5 years, and the rest at ages over 45 years. Nephritis caused 6 deaths, mostly at ages over 45 years. There were 12 deaths from senility, naturally all over 65 years, twice as many women as men. Three deaths were certified from injuries, all oldish adults. There were no suicides reported. During the year there were held 6 inquests in the district. Deaths of

non-residents that took place in the area numbered 19, and of residents that occurred outside the district 20.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles, which had been absent from the area during 1939, was epidemic to a certain extent. There were 40 cases notified, 2 being infants under a year of age, 10 aged from 1 to 5 years, 15 at school age, 8 at 15 to 25 years, and 5 aged over 25 years. Probably many of these cases were what is known as "German Measles," as the proportion of older people affected was high. In Tetbury area there were 10 cases, and in Leighterton 18, practically all the school children having the disease, which was, no doubt, the "real thing" in that instance. There were 17 male and 23 female cases reported. Only 2 cases of diphtheria were notified, both in Avening, child of 4 years, and the mother three weeks afterwards. The child attended school, which was visited, and leaflets of warning given to the head teacher for distribution.

Both diphtheria cases were treated at the Joint Hospital. Six cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, 5 being at school age, and there was one young adult. The first case was a child who lived in a home-made bungalow in the country, most of the others were, more or less, connected with a country school just outside the area. Three cases of cerebro-spinal fever were reported, 2 being from camps and not regarded as local cases, and the other an oldish woman, not necessarily connected with the military. The latter case was treated at home. Two cases of Erysipelas were reported, one aged 20, and the other only 8

years old. This disease is more common in oldish people. Five cases of pneumonia were reported, this number including 2 infants less than 12 months old. As 6 patients died, it seems that a very small proportion of the cases are being notified. One doctor was not aware that acute broncho-pneumonia was notifiable under the Act. There probably occurred 30 cases in the district. In regard to cases of infectious conditions reported from elementary schools, although only 40 cases of measles were notified by doctors, there were no less than 130 reported from the schools. This is partly due to the fact that in so many instances no doctor is called in for this disease, and, possibly, a certain number are missed by the medical attendant. Fortunately nearly all the homes affected received copies of the excellent leaflet supplied gratuitously by the Midland Insurance Company, and this also applies to cases of whooping cough, which was, however, absent from the district in 1940. Early care and attention, and keeping the patient in bed from the onset, are the most important things in this disease. Seven notifications of tuberculoses were received, and of these three were probably old residents in the area. the rest being evacuees, or persons working temporarily in the district. Six cases were affected in the lungs, and one had the disease in the knee. All the patients were adults, except one child aged 4 years. Three patients were admitted to Standish House. One patient was the daughter of a Government Official, and one was a worker in a military office which was later moved to another place. An elderly patient came to a large mansion, a London evacuee. At the end of 1939 there were on the official register the names of 45 cases, and of these 25 were lung cases and 19 of the disease in other parts, largely gland infections. At the beginning of 1939 there were 40 patients on the list. The number of cases during the last 6 years averaged about 3 per annum, and a ma-

jority of these were pulmonary. This disease is becoming less fatal in the country generally, and in time it will, probably, be quite rare. Hospital treatment is now the rule and not the exception as at one time. The County Council have a large Sanatorium at Standish, where all types of cases are treated, including pre-tubercular children. Later cases are also admitted to special wards in Isolation Hospitals in Stroud and Gloucester. One patient from Weston Birt parish has been at Stroud Hospital for over three years.

HEALTH SERVICES.

The public health sanitary arrangements are as in previous years. No change has taken place in the general hospital arrangements, the ambulances are as before, and nursing is still carried on by the nursing associations. The treatment of tuberculosis is still performed by the County Staff, and the same sanatoria are still in use. Owing to the limited capacity of the Cirencester Isolation Hospital, which can only take in two sorts of infectious diseases at a time, arrangements have been made to admit cases to the Stroud Joint Isolation Hospital. This is very necessary in these days when various extraneous diseases are apt to occur.

The child welfare centres are being conducted as well as ever, and more children are now attending owing to the influx of evacuees. Defective school children are treated as before at the Stroud General Hospital, and in Cirencester.

Owing to the closure of the Public Assistance

Infirmary patients are now treated at the Cirencester Institution.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

There was an average rainfall in the district, but there are no figures as to the number of inches that fell. The supply seemed to be satisfactory throughout the district, the town benefiting from the 60,000 gallon tank recently erected at a height of 35 feet. The daily consumption of water has risen considerably since 1939, when it was 35,000 gallons, to 55,000 gallons. This is due to an extent to the military in the area, and gives a supply of 22 gallons a head in the town, the population being about 2,500. In connection with the water supply, 1283 inspections were made by the surveyor. Two samples were taken from the reservoir, one at the beginning of the year, the other one in May. The first sample was very pure, the total solids in both were the same, combined chlorine less in the second sample, the first one having a hardness of 25.5 degrees, compared with 28.0 in the May sample. As in 1939, most of the hardness was temporary. In the May sample nitrites were present in minute quantity, in the same way and amount that they were in the April one of 1939. In the January specimen total microbes were very few, only six altogether per/c.c. at the two temperatures, and, what is more important, *B coli* was absent in 100 c.c.s of water. The May sample was also low in the total number of microbes, and *B. coli* was absent in 40 c.c.s of water. This variation seems to be seasonal, judging from the last two years. Both samples were considered quite suitable for a public supply. Considering the depth of the bore hole, and all the precautions that are taken against possible pollution it seems unlikely that the water could become infected with any specific disease microbe.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

As a rule the sewage works have done their work well, but recently there has been a falling off in the quality of the effluent. The cause of this is not certain, but it coincided with the time when a laundry, whose work was much increased by war conditions, put in a water softening arrangement, which altered the nature of their discharge into the sewers. I understand that the difficulty is now being obviated, to a certain extent. No privy vaults or earth closets were converted to water carriage, but 7 new W.C.'s were erected.

The rivers and streams gave no trouble.

The refuse tips were inspected on 142 occasions, and refuse was collected regularly. Additional collections of paper, bones and metal, for war purposes, were also started, on the advice of the Ministry of Supply.

Salvage collected :—

Waste paper	...	29½ tons.
Metal	... ..	48½ tons.
Bones	... ..	2 cwts.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	32	—	—
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries)			
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' Premises)			

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

Bakehouses	...	...	5	Painters and Decorators	2		
Butchers	...	...	4	Bootmakers	...	...	2
Laundries	...	...	4	Timber Merchants	...	1	
Gas Works	...	...	1	Hairdressers	...	...	3
Tailors	...	...	2	Stone Mason Yard	...	2	
Motor Engineers	...	...	8	Saddlers	...	...	2
Wheelwrights	...	...	1	Printing Works	...	1	
Blacksmiths	...	...	7	Millers	...	...	1
Builders	...	...	2	Metal Workers	...	...	1
Carpenters	...	...	9	Quarries	...	...	1

There were 32 inspections of Workshops and Factories carried out, no defects occurring that required notices. The numbers were the same as in 1939, namely 59. There was no list of outworkers.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	499
Houses, Inspections of, under Public Health Acts					159
Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	95
Complaints received	...	...	..	...	98
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	84
Number of houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	10

The inspections made were 499, compared with 506 in 1939. The nuisances discovered were 95, and in addition 98 complaints were made, which were investigated. There were 84 nuisances abated. Under the Shops Act 16 premises were inspected, but no condition was found of an insanitary nature.

SCHOOLS.

There are still 9 Elementary Schools with an average attendance of 600 children. In all the schools without water carriage, to the number of 6, the pail closets are emptied once a week. Only one school has rain water supply only—a county school. Practically all the schools have been visited at times, owing to outbreaks of the lesser infectious diseases, and advice given to them as to their control.

PARISH	C of E or County School	Atten- dance (appx.)	Closet Type	Boys	Girls	In- fants	Disposal of excreta	Water Supply
Avening ...	C of E	92	Pail	2	4	1	Weekly	Village Supply
Boxwell with Leighterton	County	24	Pail	3	6	0	Weekly	Rain Water
Cherington	C of E	21	Pail	3	1	0	Weekly	Village Supply
Didmarton	C of E	41	WC	2	6	0	—	Main Supply
Kingscote ...	C of E	42	Pail	2	2	1	Weekly	Spring
Long Newnton ...	C of E	32	Pail	2	2	0	Weekly	Main Supply
Shipton Moyne ...	C of E	35	Pail	1	2	0	Weekly	Main Supply
Tetbury ...	C of E	303	WC	8	4	4	—	Main Supply
Westonbirt with Lasborough	C of E	14	WC	1	1	0	—	Piped Supply

CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district, nor any applied for, but this may be due to war conditions.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	1	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects [under Public Health or Housing Acts]	90
	2	Number of Inspections made ...	378
(b)	1	Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-section (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1937 ...	6
	2	Number of Inspections made ...	219
(c)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil
(d)		Number of dwelling-houses [exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	6

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	16
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The number of houses inspected was 90, compared with 145 in 1939, and the number of inspections was 378. Of the total, 6 houses only were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations, 219 inspections being made of the same. No houses were returned as being totally unfit for habitation, but 6 were found not reasonably fit in all respects. There were 16 houses rendered fit, after informal action by the Inspector. No action was taken under the Public Health Acts, nor under the Housing Act

of 1936. No orders for demolition were made, and no houses were pulled down.

OVERCROWDING.

PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

1.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of year	...	...	...	2
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	...			2
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...			15
2.		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	1
3.	(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	2
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases...				8

At the year end there were two houses overcrowded, there being 3 in 1939. These 2 houses were occupied by 15 persons. One new case was reported during the year, and two were abated. A case of a home made wooden bungalow built without plans was inspected. This house was specially reported on by the Medical Officer, but the time was not opportune to take action.

AGRICULTURAL HOUSING.

No action was taken under the Rural Workers Acts.

The number of Council Houses was unchanged, being 92, distributed over 4 parishes, 73 being in Tetbury.

Ashley	...	...	...	2
Avening	...	...	...	12
Boxwell-with-Leighterton	...			5
Tetbury	1919	...	...	12
„	1924	...	...	12
„	1936	...	...	49
Total				92

NEW BUILDINGS.

Only 10 plans for houses to be altered, or built, were brought to the Council, about a third of the number in 1939. No new houses were built, compared with 8 in 1939.

Parish	New Dwellings	Alterations and additions to existing buildings	Garages	Miscellaneous
Avening	—	1	—	—
Tetbury	—	3	—	4
Tetbury Upton ...	—	2	—	—
Total	—	6	—	4

MILK SUPPLY.

Parish	Producers & Retailers	Producers	Retail Purveyors	Total
Ashley	1	2	—	3
Avening	3	4	—	7
Beverston	2	2	—	4
Boxwell-with-Leighterton	6	2	—	8
Cherington	1	4	—	5
Didmarton	2	3	—	5
Kingscote	—	6	—	6
Long Newnton ...	2	5	—	7
Ozleworth	1	3	—	4
Shipton Moyne ...	—	2	—	2
Tetbury	3	2	3	8
Tetbury Upton ...	7	10	—	17
Westonbirt-with-Lasborough	—	1	—	1
	28	46	3	77

There are 28 Producers and Retailers, 46 Producers, and 3 Retail Milk Sellers. This gives a total of 77, compared with 75 in 1939. Two new premises

were registered. The occupiers of 6 dairy farms were notified of sanitary defects, including two manure heaps to be removed, and five premises wanted lime-washing. There were 35 inspections of premises, as to 54 in 1939. The Accredited farms and the T.T. milk farms were still the same in number. These latter are dealt with by the County Veterinary Staff.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

All meat was slaughtered and inspected outside the area, but visits were paid to butchers and food shops. Twenty visits were paid to food shops, and also to the knackers yard.

